

## *Government*

- ◆ Created by the Georgia Legislature in 1832.
- ◆ Named for Thomas Willis Cobb (1784 - 1830).
- ◆ Within the boundaries of Cobb County are six cities, each governed by a mayor and city council.

Acworth (pop. 13,422)

Marietta\* (pop. 58,748)

Austell (pop. 5,230)

Powder Springs (pop. 12,481)

Kennesaw (pop. 21,675)

Smyrna (pop. 40,999)

\*County seat  
Cobb County (pop. 607,751)

- ◆ Cobb County is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners. The board is comprised of one chairman and four district commissioners (one from each of the four districts of the county) who serve staggered terms.
- ◆ The daily operations of the county are run by a county manager appointed by and responsible to the Board of Commissioners.

### *Fun Fact!*

"The Big Chicken," a famous Atlanta area landmark for several decades, has long been the subject of humor, curiosity, and legend. However, it serves Cobb's businesses as an easily recognizable landmark for the traveling public. What is "The Big Chicken"? It is a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant -- certainly one of a kind!



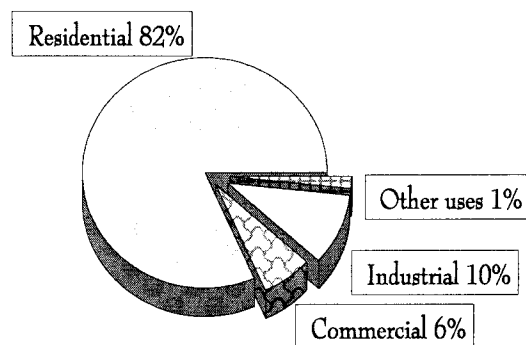
### *Historical Fact!*

During the Civil War, Cobb was the site of numerous skirmishes and battles. The Confederate defense at Kennesaw Mountain temporarily blocked Union General Sherman's advance on Atlanta.

*Land Use and Development*

The following tables and graphs provide an overview of the geographic characteristics of Cobb County.

<i>Geographic Characteristics of Cobb County</i>			
	Land Area	Climate	Topography
Square Miles	340.2		
Acres	220,144		
Average Annual Temperature		61.3°	
Average Annual Rainfall		49"	
Average Annual Snowfall		2"	
Mean Elevation			1,050 ft.
Highest Point (Kennesaw Mountain)			1,808 ft.
Lowest Point (Chattahoochee River at Douglas County)			750 ft.

*Undeveloped/Marginally Developed Land**Per Future Land Use*

**Undeveloped/Underdeveloped Acres in  
Unincorporated Cobb County  
2004**

<u>Commission District</u>	<u>Estimated Acres</u>
1 (West Cobb)	15,230.70
2 (South East Cobb)	2,032.33
3 (North East Cobb)	4,673.26
4 (South Cobb)	14,182.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,119.22</b>

### *Demographics*

The following tables depict information related to the population of Cobb County.

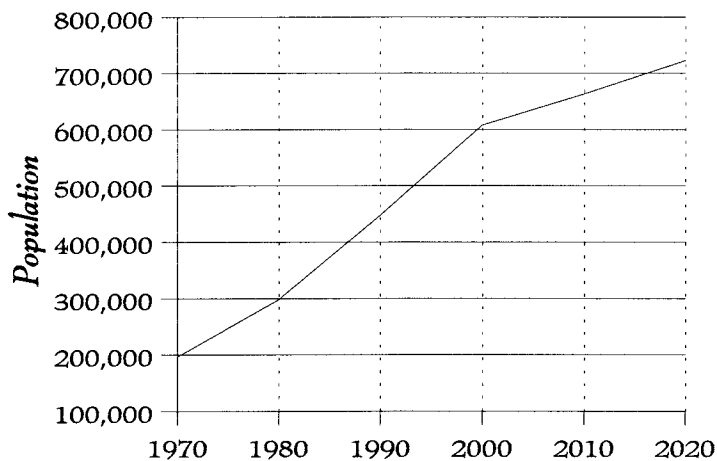
#### *Census 2000*

Cobb County has experienced a 35% increase in population during the past ten years.

#### *Age, Race, & Gender Composition*

Non-Hispanic White .....	72%
Non-Hispanic Black .....	18%
Hispanic .....	7%
Non-Hispanic Asian .....	3%
Male .....	49.6%
Female .....	50.4%
Age 19 & Under .....	28.4%
Age 20-34 .....	24.8%
Age 35-59 .....	36.9%
Age 60+ .....	9.8%

#### *Population Growth*



#### *Cobb's Growth Rates*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Employment</u>
1980-1990	50.4%	108.0%
1990-2000	35.7%	43.9%
2000-2010	14.7%	19.7%
2010-2020	9.0%	13.0%

***Economy***

The following information reveals the many economic highlights in Cobb County.

***Top Ten Employers in  
Cobb County***

Company	Employees
#1 Cobb County Schools	13,871
#2 Wellstar Health System, Inc.	9,666
#3 IBM Corporation	8,000
#4 Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co.	7,855
#5 The Home Depot, Inc.	6,686
#6 Cobb County Government	5,100
#7 Naval Air Station Atlanta	3,195
#8 Publix Supermarket, Inc.	2,300
#9 Six Flags Over Georgia	2,231
#10 GE Energy	1,700

Cobb has over 41,324 licensed businesses.

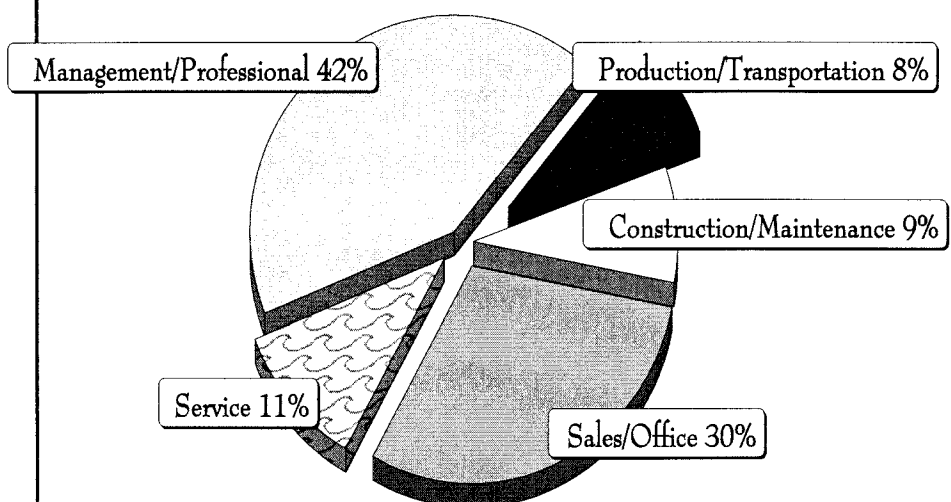
Unemployment within  
Cobb County has  
remained lower than the  
national rate.

2004

U.S. .... 5.4%  
Cobb ..... 3.7%

***Cobb County Occupation Profile***

2000



### ***Economic Incentives***

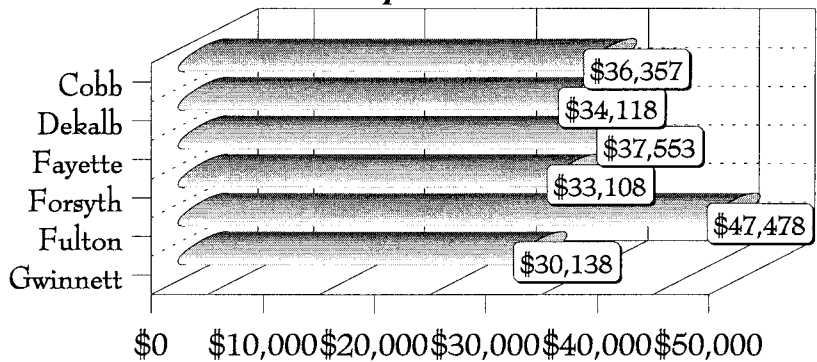
Cobb County's Economic Development Incentives Ordinance was designed to enhance the county's pro-business climate. Businesses must offer at least 25 new jobs and have an economic impact of at least \$500,000 to be eligible for the incentives.

### ***Housing Statistics 2003***

Number of Housing Units .....	254,651
Single Family Housing Units .....	72.5%
Multi-family Housing Units .....	25.5%
Mobile Housing Units .....	2.0%

### ***2002 Per Capita Income - Top Six Counties***

#### ***Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area***



Cobb County's median household income in 2000 was \$56,857.

Cobb County has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest per capita income in the state.

### Taxes in Cobb

The chart below details exactly how a citizen's annual property tax dollars are distributed. For the purpose of the chart, a home appraised at \$180,000 is presented. This example includes eligible homestead exemptions for county, state, and school. The credit shown below is due to the homeowner tax relief enacted by the Governor and General Assembly. It is calculated by multiplying the sum of the county M&O millage + Fire millage + the Board of Education M&O millage + the state millage by the current Governor's tax credit of \$8,000. Obviously, this tax credit will differ from county to county.

[i.e.,  $(6.85 + 2.65 + 19.00 + .25) \times \$8,000/1000 = \$230.00$ ]

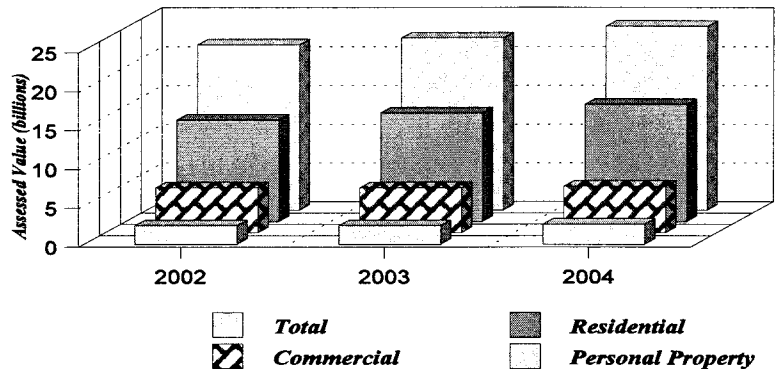
### 2004 Residential Tax Bill

	General Fund	Fire	Debt Service	State	School M&O	School Bond	Governor's Credit	Total Tax Bill
Millage	6.85	2.65	0.22	0.25	19.00	0.90	28.75	29.87
Tax Dollars	\$ 424.70	\$ 190.80	\$ 15.84	\$ 17.50	\$ 1,178.00	\$ 64.80	\$(230.00)	\$ 1,661.64

### Did You Know?

One mill represents 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a penny. A mill is a measure used to assess property tax so that \$1,000 of assessed value amounts to \$1 of property tax.

### Tax Digest History-Real/Personal Property



### Millage Rates: A Local Comparison Tax on a \$180,000 Home

County/ City	Millage Rate	Local Exemptions	State Exemptions	Governor's Credit	Total Tax Bill
Cobb	29.87	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$(230.00)	\$1,661.64
DeKalb	38.71	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$(299.28)	\$2,115.74
Fulton	34.23	\$15,000	\$2,000	\$(271.01)	\$1,913.97
Gwinnett	31.87	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$(225.84)	\$1,915.04
Atlanta	42.89	\$15,000	\$2,000	\$(331.61)	\$2,138.17

**Service Statistics**

The charts below describe several of the services provided in Cobb County.

### **Public Safety 2003**

**Fire Protection**

Fire Stations	27
Sworn Employees	586
Civilian Employees	25
Fire Dispatches	63,006
EMS Runs	29,417
Total Fires	1,292
Total Calls	39,826
Property at Risk	.. \$679 billion
Total Fire Losses	.. \$18 million
Value Saved	660 billion

**Police Protection**

Precincts	5
Sworn Employees*	569
Civilian Employees*	101
Part-time Employees*	74
Calls for Service	844,290
Police Dispatches	534,984

\*employee figures are 2004 YTD

**Transportation****Roads**

Miles of Road Maintained	2,500
New Street Light Installations	1,015

**Transit**

Annual Ridership	2.8 million
Paratransit	57,391

**Aviation**

Based Aircraft	392
Take-offs/Landings	128,785

**Customer Growth**

Cobb County Water System has experienced more than 40% customer growth over the past ten years; from 113,558 accounts in 1994 to 159,903 in 2004.

### **Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste 2003 Statistics**

Customer Accounts Served	157,200
Miles of Water Lines	2,900
Fire Hydrants	24,375
Water Storage Capacity (Gallons)	36 million
Types of Items Recycled	13
Solid Waste Facility Transactions	161,629

*More Service Statistics*

***Did You Know?***

Cobb County's parks system is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the Southeast. Available activities and services include:

softball	baseball
football	soccer
archery	arts & crafts
volleyball	swimming
tennis	BMX
gymnastics	golf

Cobb County was recently ranked first in Georgia and 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation by the *U.S. Census Bureau - Most Educated Counties*.

***Educational System***

Elementary Schools	64
Middle Schools	21
High Schools	14
Special Schools	7

[www.cobb.k12.ga.us](http://www.cobb.k12.ga.us)

The Cobb County Public School District is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school system in Georgia and among the 30 largest in the United States.

***Library System***

Branches	17
Library Materials	902,085
Annual Visitors	1.8 Million
Items Checked Out	3.7 Million
Public Internet Use Sessions	597,752

***Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs***

County Park Properties	56
Total Acres	3,378
Developed Acres	1,297
County-owned Golf Courses	2
Recreation Centers	4
Community Centers	4
Tennis Centers	6
Cultural Affairs Centers	3
Gymnastic Centers	1
Aquatic Centers	3
Civic Center	1
Theater/Amphitheatre	2

***Senior Services***

Five multipurpose community centers and four neighborhood centers serve Cobb's senior population. More than 900 volunteers -- many seniors themselves -- provide assistance with home meal delivery, transportation, and social activities. The volunteer program merged with a new advocacy program, which resulted in the creation of a new position, Program Coordinator of Volunteerism and Advocacy. In addition, there is a Senior Center for seniors with Alzheimer and other related dementia.

***Higher Education Institutions***

Kennesaw State University  
Southern Polytechnic State University  
Life University  
Chattahoochee Technical Institute



*Interesting Places*

The following are a few of the many attractions visitors and citizens of Cobb County have available to enjoy.

*Amusement Parks*

American Adventures  
Six Flags White Water  
Six Flags Over Georgia

*National Recreation Areas*

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is a Civil War historic site covering 2,884 acres. This popular area offers passive recreational opportunities including hiking, jogging, and picnicking.

The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area spans 4,109 acres with 1,829 acres located in Cobb County. Activities include canoeing, rafting, fishing, hiking, jogging, and picnicking.

*Lakes*

Lake Acworth  
Lake Allatoona

*Silver Comet Trail*

Cobb County's section of the Silver Comet Trail is a 16-mile paved multi-use trail that begins in the city of Smyrna and travels west through southern parts of the county. The trail follows the abandoned railroad line once traveled by the Silver Comet passenger train.

The Silver Comet Trail was built by the Cobb County Department of Transportation and is maintained by the Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department.

*Historic Sites*

Atlanta Frasier Street Historic District  
Northwest Marietta Historic District  
Church Street - Cherokee Street Historic District  
Concord Covered Bridge Historic District  
Lost Mountain Store  
Mable House  
J.C. Bankston Rock House  
Riverview Carousel at Six Flags

*Mable House Amphitheatre*

The Mable House Amphitheatre is a publicly-owned mid-sized, yet intimate, outdoor venue located in a natural setting off Floyd Road in south Cobb County. The facility has the capacity to host 2,200 people through the use of 128 table seats (each table seats four), 1,262 fixed seats, and 750+ lawn seats.

It is designed to accommodate performances of all types- concerts, musical theatre, dance, symphony orchestras, plays and multi-discipline performances.

*For More Information*

If you would like more information about Cobb County, please visit the Cobb County Government website at [www.cobbcounty.org](http://www.cobbcounty.org), call Cobb County information at (770) 528-1000/(770) 528-1103 (TDD), or contact the Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 671868, Marietta, Georgia, 30006.

*Other Government Services*

The chart below lists organizations in other jurisdictions that provide services within Cobb County.

Acworth City Hall	974-3112	<a href="http://www.acworth.org">www.acworth.org</a>
Austell City Hall	944-4300	<a href="http://www.austell.org">www.austell.org</a>
Board of Education - Cobb County	426-3300	<a href="http://www.cobb.k12.ga.us">www.cobb.k12.ga.us</a>
Board of Education- Marietta City	422-3500	<a href="http://www.marietta-city.k12.ga.us">www.marietta-city.k12.ga.us</a>
C-MAR Credit Union	427-1463	<a href="http://www.cmarcu.org">www.cmarcu.org</a>
Cobb Chamber of Commerce	980-2000	<a href="http://www.cobbchamber.com">www.cobbchamber.com</a>
Cobb Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCVB)	800-451-3480	<a href="http://www.cobbcvb.com">www.cobbcvb.com</a>
Cobb Humane Society	428-5678	<a href="http://www.humanecobb.org">www.humanecobb.org</a>
Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)	528-5000	<a href="http://www.cobbdfcs.state.ga.us">www.cobbdfcs.state.ga.us</a>
Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS)	678-413-8400	<a href="http://www.dmvs.ga.gov">www.dmvs.ga.gov</a>
Georgia Department of Labor	528-6100	<a href="http://www.dol.state.ga.us">www.dol.state.ga.us</a>
Georgia State Patrol	404-624-7000	<a href="http://www.ganet.org/dps">www.ganet.org/dps</a>
Health Department	514-2300	<a href="http://www.cobbcountypublichealth.org">www.cobbcountypublichealth.org</a>
Kennesaw City Hall	424-8274	<a href="http://www.kennesaw.ga.us">www.kennesaw.ga.us</a>
Marietta City Hall	794-5501	<a href="http://www.city.marietta.ga.us">www.city.marietta.ga.us</a>
Post Office (Marietta)	590-9771	<a href="http://www.usps.com">www.usps.com</a>

All phone numbers have a (770) area code unless otherwise noted.

**COMMUNITY**

More than \$7.7 million was invested in 40 community service agencies. These include non-profit, volunteer-driven organizations such as Assisting the Needs of the Disabled, Blacks United for Youth-Cobb, Cobb Commission on Children and Youth, Cobb County Department of Family and Children Services, Cobb Senior Services and The Extension.

***Need More  
Info?***

Economic Development  
100 Cherokee Street  
Suite 570  
Marietta, Georgia 30090  
(770) 528-2607  
[www.cobbcounty.org](http://www.cobbcounty.org)

**F**Y 03 and FY 04 were exciting years for Cobb County. While we're proud and thankful for our past accomplishments listed below, those of us in county government are most excited about the road ahead. We realize that much of Cobb's success - its safe roads, clean water, and remarkable quality of life - stem from progressive, big picture policies that anticipate and plan for Cobb's needs well in advance. So, as we reflect on achievements past, our focus remains on the future.

**Economic Development**

**I**n 2003, Cobb remained Georgia's third largest county and also ranked third in new home starts per capita income. Cobb also boasts Georgia's high percentage of college graduates and annual retail sales of over \$10.1 billion.

**W**ith a workforce over 370,729 strong, Cobb County remains a major employment center. Unemployment in Cobb County (3.7%) is lower than the national rate (5.4%). Businesses continue to see Cobb as a destination. Federal Express Ground broke ground on an \$80 million regional package handling facility, which will employ 650 people. Other companies include Georgian Bank, which started relocating its corporate headquarters to Cobb County, and Nissan North America Inc., which has already relocated its southeastern regional sales office to Cobb County. Continued growth allowed Cobb County Schools to remain the largest employer in the county with over 13,800 employees.

**CUMULATIVE SAVINGS**

Since 1992, under the leadership of the Board of Commissioners, Cobb County has experienced a cumulative millage reduction of 2.27, which equates to \$269 million savings to our taxpayers over the last eleven years. Cobb County's 2004 millage rate is 9.72, which is the lowest millage rate in the Atlanta metro area.

**FINANCES**

Wall Street took notice of Cobb's strong, decisive management. The county's finances were ranked a stellar Triple "A" by all three of the nation's top bond rating agencies, making us one of only a few counties nationwide to hold this prestigious rating. The county has maintained a Triple "A" rating for the past seven years.

**TRANSIT**

In FY 04, Cobb Community Transit (CCT) celebrated a new record for ridership with a 10.5% increase over FY 03, exceeding 3.5 million trips. Based on recommendations from the 2003 Transit Development Plan, CCT added 58 hours of additional service per weekday to improve reliability, reduce waiting time between buses, and expand the hours of service.

CCT opened a fourth park-and-ride lot in Acworth. The addition of this park and ride lot provides the public with another location in which to park their cars and commute downtown, helping to reduce highway congestion and improve air quality.

**WATER SYSTEM RATED TRIPLE "A"**

Cobb County Water System was recognized through a Triple "A" bond rating from Fitch IBCA in 1999, Moody's Investors Service in 2000, and Standard and Poor's in 2001, making it the only independently-funded water system in the nation with three Triple "A" ratings from the top three rating agencies.

**WATER SYSTEM**

In 2004, all four Water Reclamation Facilities earned Gold Awards from the Georgia Water & Pollution Association for complete and consistent compliance with all federal and state operating permit requirements.

**Infrastructure****TRANSPORTATION**

In FY 03, Cobb Department of Transportation (DOT) began construction of two pedestrian bridge projects. One is for the Silver Comet Trail over C. H. James Parkway. The other will cross Sandy Plains Roads and connect the Mountain View Campus, including the library, senior center and cultural affairs center, with the Chatahoochee Tech/Mountain View Aquatic Center facilities.

In FY 04, DOT began designs on six projects estimated at \$38 million that will improve the flow of traffic and provide for pedestrian and vehicle safety throughout Cobb County. These projects include road replacement and widening, as well as operational improvements and safety improvements.

✿ In 2003, a \$3.2 million Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant was awarded to Cobb County to extend one of the runways at the county airport-McCollum Field. The FAA also installed a radar display that allows the control tower to see and plan for aircraft in all weather conditions.

**WATER SYSTEM FACILITIES**

- ◆ In FY 01, Cobb's Water System started the \$128 million construction of the replacement plant for the R. L. Sutton Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). This facility became operational in October 2004.
- ◆ The South Cobb WRF received the EPA's 2003 national first place award for Operations and Maintenance Excellence in the Large Advanced category.

The \$113 million Chattahoochee Tunnel project, a 9.5 mile wastewater conveyance tunnel 200 feet below ground, with a diameter of 18 feet, became operational in October 2004 following almost 10 years of planning and 3 years of construction. It serves as the primary wastewater conveyance passage for large portions of East Cobb with capacity for years to come. Tunnel flows go directly to the R. L. Sutton Water Reclamation Facility.

## Public Safety

The Public Safety Agency formed an eight-officer Cobb Anti-Gang Enforcement (CAGE) unit to stop criminal gang activity through enforcement, education and community involvement.

Cobb County Fire Department purchased 76 additional portable radios that will allow each firefighter on duty to have essential communications capability on a call.

Additionally, two ladder trucks, three rescue vehicles and twelve additional fire engines were purchased in 2003.

Cobb hosted its first Homeland Security Training Conference with the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. An estimated 500 community, business and civic leaders came together to discuss the need for emergency plans and courses of prevention.

Cobb's E911 Bureau improved its technology by installing a new automated system that will allow dispatchers to call homes and businesses in specific parts of the county to notify them about safety threats, such as chemical spills, floods or tornadoes. Furthermore, the 911 system now also has the capability to automatically send simultaneous text pages to Public Safety command staff and key personnel during a crisis-saving time that could mean saving lives. In addition, the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a \$3 million upgrade that will enable 911 dispatchers to automatically locate the area where a cell phone call originates. This technology will be funded by revenue from surcharges to cellular companies and land-line users.

The National Weather Service recognized Cobb's weather preparedness by certifying it as a "Storm Ready" community. A few of the certification requirements include a 24-hour warning point to receive and disseminate information, outdoor warning sirens and weather-related safety campaigns.

In order to get specific warnings to those parts of the county which need them, Cobb continued upgrading 74 emergency sirens, including two that can give verbal instructions to residents about a danger and how they should respond.

Cobb's Fire Department completed a \$3.6 million state-of-the-art Fire and Emergency Services Headquarters facility in FY 03. The 17,500 square foot building replaced a 7,000 square foot old headquarters building that will continue to be used for other functions.

The Cobb County Department of Public Safety (DPS) continues its focus on the safety of Cobb County citizens. Cobb DPS received more than \$2.1 million in federal and state grant money to improve preparedness, equipment, and upgrade technology for first responders. One of these grants will provide a computer web-based interactive system for Cobb's Emergency Management Agency Operations Center.

## Judicial Services

The Solicitor General's Office handled nearly 7,300 misdemeanor warrants, resulting in more than 7,000 criminal accusations filed, and prosecuted about 175,000 traffic cases.

The \$5 million Cobb County Adult Detention Center's Work Release Facility, operated by the Sheriff's Office, opened its doors at the beginning of 2003, housing non-violent offenders that leave the facility for employment during the day and return for lock-down at night.

The Sheriff's Office completed implementation of an automated victim notification system which alerts interested parties prior to an offender's release from custody.

In FY 03 the Superior Court Drug Treatment Court saw its first full year of service. The five-phase program, only available to non-violent first offenders, allows them to complete an intensive supervised treatment program to clear their record as an alternative to jail.

In FY 04, the Georgia state legislature created a new judgeship for the State Court of Cobb County, which resulted in the creation of a new courtroom and judge's office. The court now consists of seven Division I judges and four Division II judges, making it Cobb County's largest court in the number of full-time judges.

Magistrate Court implemented a system to allow people to file civil matters electronically, in FY 04. During February 2004, its first full month of operation, fees for the online service raised \$6,332 for the county while regular mailing and personal filings raised only \$4,827. The service was developed using Magistrate Court forms, but is capable of being expanded for use by other Cobb County courts and different types of civil cases in the future.

In FY 04, the State Court Clerk's Office implemented the first phase of an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System, which allows individuals to access criminal and traffic case information via telephone.

Court orders and related documents are now produced electronically in all Magistrate courtrooms, eliminating the need to produce them manually.

Juvenile Court is slated to begin installing state-of-the-art digital recording equipment in each of their four courtrooms, allowing an audio and video recording in each proceeding that take place. Each proceeding will be stored on a CD.

## Quality of Life

### RECREATION

In FY 04, the **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department** opened Trolley Line Park, located in the Vinings area of Cobb County. Trolley Line Park is a passive park with a walking trail and historical information signs that describe the trolley line that ran between Marietta and Atlanta until the late 1940's. This park was constructed at a cost of \$180,000.

Ground was broken in June 2004 for a new aquatic center in South Cobb. The new indoor swimming facility is planned to open in May 2005 and will feature a 150 foot water-slide, lazy river, interactive water play stations, lap lanes and diving area. This project is funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) at a cost of approximately \$3 million.

The Maple House Amphitheatre kicked off its first season in 2003. The state paid for \$6 million of its \$7 million construction cost. The amphitheatre features 2,200 seats, four private boxes and a lawn area for picnicking audience members.

### TECHNOLOGY

In 2003, the Cobb County Public Library System implemented Smart Access Manager (SAM). This new technology greatly improves the internet sign-up process for patrons who want to use the library computers.

SAM will:

- \*Keep track of your session time and total time for the day
- \*Alert you when your time is about to run out
- \*Put you on a waiting list, with staff assistance
- \*Let you know exactly how many pages are in your print job and what it will cost before you print
- \*Automatically debit your pre-paid account for a particular day and time
- \*Automatically filter the computer for children whose parents have not approved unfiltered access

In FY 03, Cobb Senior Services Department opened the new \$1.2 million North Cobb Senior Center at Kennworth Park in Acworth. The 10,000 square foot center provides an area for active seniors and serves hot lunches to eligible seniors. It has two full-size kitchens, two multipurpose rooms, three classrooms, computer lab and a lounge area.

The Cobb Elections and Registration Department has the most advance voting locations in the metro area.

Five different locations were set up for advance voting leading up to Election Day in November 2004. There were 205 polling locations on Elections Day.

**C**obb residents enjoy low property taxes while services provided continue to increase.

### Total Unincorporated Millage Without School & State Taxes

	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Fulton	18.04	17.27	16.63	16.38
DeKalb	15.03	15.58	15.58	15.48
Gwinnett	11.49	11.32	11.50	11.47
<b>COBB</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>9.72</b>	<b>9.72</b>